

**NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSES AND COMBINED PUBLIC HEARINGS
FOR THE PROPOSED NC 87 IMPROVEMENTS FROM US 74-76
IN COLUMBUS COUNTY TO THE ELIZABETHTOWN BYPASS**

TIP Project No. R-2561

WBS No. 34466.4.1

Columbus and Bladen Counties

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold two Pre-Hearing Open Houses and two Combined Public Hearings for the above mentioned highway project. The meetings will each be held on the following dates and locations:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 31, 2012
East Bladen High School
5600 NC Highway 87
Elizabethtown, 28337 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 9, 2012
Acme-Delco Elementary School
16337 Old Lake Road
Riegelwood, 28456 |
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NCDOT representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open House between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours.

A formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed location & design, right of way acquisition, relocation requirements / procedures, and funding source. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a transcript will be prepared. Additional material may be submitted until March 9, 2011.

The project calls for widening the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane roadway with a 46-foot median and with a 23-foot raised median in Riegelwood. The proposed project is approximately 30 miles long. Interchanges are proposed at existing NC 87 / NC 11 and NC 87 / US 74-76. Two alternatives were developed and will be presented at the public hearings. Alternative A would widen existing NC 87 from the Elizabethtown Bypass to US 74-76 along the existing NC 87 route. Alternative B would widen existing NC 87 from the Elizabethtown Bypass to NC 11, rerouting NC 87 along NC 11 and continuing east to the existing US 74-76 / NC 87 intersection.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility and reduce travel time along the NC 87 corridor between Elizabethtown and US 74-76. Additional right of way and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project.

A map displaying the location and design of the projects and a copy of the State Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) are available for public review at the NCDOT District Office, 1194 Prison Camp Road, Whiteville, 28472; County Manager's Office, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, 28337; and Bladen Public Library, 111 North Cypress Street, Elizabethtown, 28337. The maps are available for viewing online at http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county/county/Columbus.html.

The US Army Corps of Engineers issued a public notice for this project on October 17, 2011. The public notice describes the ongoing process in choosing the LEDPA (Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative) and can be accessed at http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Wetland/Notices/Current_notices.html.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Kimberly Hinton, Human Environment Unit at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone: (919) 707-6072, or email: khinton@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Hinton as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.